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CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**
☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**

DATE: 9/1/2020
DOCKET #:

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Citizens for Cutting the Crap Out of Politics
Office:
Parish:
Election Date: 10/12/2019
Level of Office: PAC

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: 40-G
Original Due Date: 12/27/2019
Date Filed: 2/25/2020
Activity Receipts: \$5,500.00
Expenditures: \$ 5,290.00
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$1,190.00

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$3,000
Days Late: 60
Late Fee Order Received: 5/19/2020 -
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 6/8/2020
Waiver Request Received: 5/11/2020
Additional Information Requested:
- Medical
- Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: She had understood that the 40th Day After General Election Report was only to be filed by PACs supporting or opposing a candidate in the General Election. Since the sole candidate that the committee was opposing was unsuccessful in the Runoff election in 2019, it was her understanding that the next report would be due on February 18, 2020, covering activity from October 28, 2019 through December 31, 2019. She did contact the Louisiana Administration Program once she was aware of the Runoff election and was advised at the time that since there was no General election, that she would not need to file a Post-Election report. The delinquent filing notices regarding the 40th Day After General Election Report were sent to the P0 Box on record, however, she was unfortunately unaware of these notices as she lives out of state and do not have physical access to this P0 Box.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No

March 13, 2020

Louisiana Board of Ethics
PO Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Louisiana Board of Ethics,

I am writing you today to request a consideration for a waiver or reduction of penalty that has been assessed to the Citizens for Cutting the Crap out of Politics committee.

The reason for the delinquent filing of the 40th Day After General Election report was a misunderstanding on my part of which reports were due for this committee.

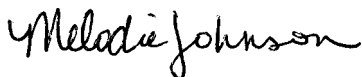
According to the schedule provided on the Louisiana Ethics website titled "Schedule of Reporting and Filing Dates for Candidates & PACs supporting or Opposing Candidates" for the October 12, 2019 Primary election, I had understood that the 40th Day After General Election Report was only to be filed by PACs supporting or opposing a candidate in the General Election. Since the sole candidate that the committee was opposing was unsuccessful in the Runoff election in 2019, it was my understanding that the next report would be due on February 18, 2020, covering activity from October 28, 2019 through December 31, 2019. I did contact the Louisiana Administration Program once I was aware of the Runoff election and was advised at the time that since there was no General election, that I would not need to file a Post Election report. Obviously, there was a disconnect between myself and the person I spoke with, but I was aware the applicable 48 hour reports prior to the election and those disclosures were filed timely.

It was only after contacting the Campaign Finance department again on 2/19/2020, under the impression that the report following the previously filed 10th Day Prior to General report was due on 2/18/2020, that I was informed that the Runoff election was held on the General election date and that the terms "General Election" and "Runoff Election" are considered interchangeable in the context of the 2019 Louisiana elections. Furthermore, I was also informed that the committee had maxed out on the penalty for delinquent filing of the 40th Day After General Election Report in the amount of \$3,000.00.

It is my understanding that delinquent filing notices regarding the 40th Day After General Election Report were sent to the PO Box on record, however, I was unfortunately unaware of these notices as I live out of state and do not have physical access to this PO Box. I have updated the contact information for this committee so that any future communications will come directly to me.

I hope that the board will consider waiving or reducing the penalty imposed for the 40th Day After General Election Report as a first-time offense of a Treasurer unfamiliar with the unique terminology used in the documents outlining report due dates of applicable campaign finance reports. Unfortunately, I misunderstood these requirements even though I attempted to clarify report due dates with the campaign finance department. My only intent as Treasurer of this committee is to adhere to all applicable regulations and to file the required campaign finance reports. I am hopeful that the board will take my intent into account when determining the next steps to resolve this issue. I look forward to your response and would like to resolve this as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.



Melodie Johnson
Treasurer

ETHICS BOARD REC'D
MAY 11 '20 PM3:38

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